IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

1. (currently amended): A system for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program, the system comprising:

a first interface mutually registered with at least one of a plurality of client messaging applications, the interface for performing the steps of:

receiving a message from the at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications, <u>wherein the message includes a request for information</u>; and

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

a computer communicatively coupled to the first interface, the computer for performing the steps of:

determining<u>, based on the request for information,</u> the destination of the message, wherein the destination is an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for ~~another program~~ <u>a client-user for accessing an informational database</u>; and

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message <u>for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information</u>; and

a second interface coupled to the computer, the second interface for performing the steps of:

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer

program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the selected autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message without further user intervention.

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented): The system of claim 2, further comprising:

at the second interface, further performing the steps of:

receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return message; and

translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the base code;

at the computer, further performing the step of:

determining the destination of the return message, wherein the destination is a client messaging application; and

at the first interface, further performing the steps of:

selecting the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message;

translating the calling convention of the message in the base code to the calling convention of the selected client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the first interface comprises:

An Application Programming Interface for interfacing with a plurality of mutually registered client messaging applications and for registering with at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications.

7. (previously presented): The system of claim 4, wherein the second interface comprises:

an Application Programming Interface for translating the request for information to the autonomous computer program and for translating the return message to the computer.

8. (previously presented The system of claim 1, wherein the client messaging application comprises an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

9. (previously presented): The system of claim 8, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

Lotus Sametime Messaging;

America Online Instant Messenger;

MSN Messenger Service;

Yahoo Messenger;

ICQ;

Jabber Instant Messaging; and

a Telnet utility.

10. (previously presented): The system of claim 1, wherein the autonomous computer program comprises a messaging server.

11. (previously presented): The system of claim 10, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

an IBM MQSeries server;

a Microsoft Transaction server;

a Lotus Domino server; and

an LDAP utility.

12. (previously presented): The system of claim 4, wherein the autonomous computer program retrieves the requested information from any one of:

a personal finance database;

a stock market database;

a personal contact database;

a web site;

an FTP site; and

a gopher site.

13. (currently amended): A system for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as agents for other programs, the system comprising:

a first interface connected to and mutually registered with a client messaging application, the client messaging application for performing the steps of:

receiving a message from the client messaging application via the interface, wherein the message includes a request for information; and

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

a computer communicatively coupled to the first interface, the computer for performing the steps of:

determining, based on the request for information, the destination of the message, wherein the destination is one of a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as agents for other programs a client-user for accessing an informational database; and

selecting an the autonomous computer program from the plurality of autonomous computer programs determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information; and

a second interface connected to the computer, the second interface for performing the steps of:

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message.

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented): The system of claim 13, further comprising:

    at the second interface, further performing the steps of:

        receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return message; and

        translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the base code;

    at the computer, further performing the step of:

        determining the destination of the return message, wherein the destination is the client messaging application; and

    at the first interface, further performing the steps of:

    selecting the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message;

    translating the message in the calling convention of the base code to the calling convention of the selected client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message; and

    transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

17. (cancelled)

18. (previously presented): The system of claim 13, wherein the first interface comprises:

    an Application Programming Interface for interfacing with the client messaging application and for registering with the plurality of client messaging application.

19. (previously presented): The system of claim 16, wherein the second interface comprises:

an Application Programming Interface for translating the request for information to the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message and for translating the return message to the computer.

20. (previously presented): The system of claim 13, wherein the client messaging application comprises an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

21. (previously presented): The system of claim 20, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

Lotus Sametime Messaging;

America Online Instant Messenger;

MSN Messenger Service;

Yahoo Messenger;

ICQ;

Jabber Instant Messaging; and

a Telnet utility.

22. (previously presented): The system of claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of autonomous computer programs comprise a messaging server.

23. (previously presented): The system of claim 22, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

an IBM MQSeries server;

a Microsoft Transaction server;

a Lotus Domino server; and

an LDAP utility.

24. (previously presented): The system of claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of autonomous computer programs retrieve the requested information from any one of:

a personal finance database;

a stock market database;

a personal contact database;

a web site;

an FTP site; and

a gopher site.

25. (currently amended): A system for transmitting messages from a plurality of client messaging applications to a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for other programs, the system comprising:

a first interface mutually registered with at least one of a plurality of client messaging applications, the first interface for performing the steps of:

receiving a message from the at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request for information; and

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

a computer communicatively coupled to the first interface, the computer for performing the steps of:

determining, based on the request for information, the destination of the message, wherein the destination is one of a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for ~~other programs~~ a client-user for accessing an informational database; and

selecting one of a plurality of autonomous computer programs determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information; and

a second interface coupled to the computer, the second interface for performing the steps of:

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the selected autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention.

26. (cancelled)

27. (cancelled)

28. (previously presented): The system of claim 26, further comprising:
    at the second interface, further performing the steps of:
        receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return message; and
        translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the base code;
    at the computer, further performing the steps of:
        determining the destination of the return message, wherein the destination is one of a plurality of client messaging applications; and
        selecting the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message; and
    at the first interface, further performing the steps of:
        translating the message in the calling convention of the base code to the calling convention of the selected client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message; and
        transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

29. (cancelled)

30. (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein the first interface comprises:
    an Application Programming Interface for interfacing with a plurality of mutually registered client messaging applications and for registering with at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications.

31. (previously presented): The system of claim 28, wherein the second interface comprises:

an Application Programming Interface for translating the request for information to the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message and for translating the return message to the computer.

32. (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein each of the plurality of client messaging applications comprise an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

33. (previously presented): The system of claim 32, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

Lotus Sametime Messaging;

America Online Instant Messenger;

MSN Messenger Service;

Yahoo Messenger;

ICQ;

Jabber Instant Messaging; and

a Telnet utility.

34. (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein each of the plurality of autonomous computer programs comprise a messaging server.

35. (previously presented): The system of claim 34, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

an IBM MQSeries server;

a Microsoft Transaction server;

a Lotus Domino server; and

an LDAP utility.

36. (previously presented): The system of claim 28, wherein each of the plurality of autonomous computer programs retrieve the requested information from any one of:

a personal finance database;

a stock market database;

a personal contact database;

a web site;

an FTP site; and

a gopher site.

37. (currently amended): A method for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a message from one of a plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request for information;

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request for information, a destination of the message, wherein the destination is an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program a client-user for accessing an informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information;

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the selected autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention.

38. (cancelled)

39. (cancelled)

40. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, further comprising:
    at the second interface, further performing the steps of:
        receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return
    message; and
        translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling
    convention of the base code;
    at the computer, further performing the steps of:
        determining the destination of the return message, wherein the destination
    is one of a plurality of client messaging applications;
        selecting the client messaging application determined to be the
    destination of the message;
        translating the message in the calling convention of the base code to the
    calling convention of the selected client messaging application determined to be
    the destination of the message; and
        transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined
    to be the destination of the message.

41. (cancelled)

42. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the first receiving step
comprises:
    receiving, via an Application Programming Interface, a message from one of a
plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the Application Programming
Interface interfaces with the plurality of mutually registered client messaging
applications and registers with at least one of the plurality of client messaging
applications.

43. (previously presented): The method of claim 40, wherein the translation is
performed by an Application Programming Interface.

44. (previously presented): The method of claim 43, further comprising a step before the second transmitting step of:

translating, by the Application Programming Interface, the return message to the client messaging application.

45. (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein each of the plurality of client messaging applications comprise an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

46. (previously presented): The method of claim 45, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

Lotus Sametime Messaging;

America Online Instant Messenger;

MSN Messenger Service;

Yahoo Messenger;

ICQ;

Jabber Instant Messaging; and

a Telnet utility.

47 (previously presented): The method of claim 37, wherein the autonomous computer program comprises a messaging server.

48. (previously presented): The method of claim 47, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

an IBM MQSeries server;

a Microsoft Transaction server;

a Lotus Domino server; and

an LDAP utility.

49. (previously presented): The method of claim 40, wherein the autonomous computer program retrieves the requested information from any one of:

a personal finance database;

a stock market database;

a personal contact database;

a web site;

an FTP site; and

a gopher site.

50. (currently amended): A method for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message from at least one client messaging application, wherein the message includes a request for information;

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request for information, a destination of the message, wherein the destination is one of a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for ~~other programs~~ a client-user for accessing an informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information;

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the selected autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention.

51. (currently amended): A method for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message from one of a plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request for information;

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request for information, a destination of the message, wherein the destination is one of a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for other programs a client-user for accessing an informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information;

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the selected autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention.

52. (currently amended): A computer readable medium including computer instructions for transmitting messages from a plurality of client messaging applications to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving a message from one of a plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request for information;

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request for information, a destination of the message, wherein the destination is a an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program a client-user for accessing an informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information;

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the selected autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention.

53. (cancelled)

54. (cancelled)

55. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 53, further comprising instructions for:

    receiving information from the autonomous computer program in a return message;

    translating a calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the base code;

    determining a destination of the return message, wherein the destination is one of the plurality of client messaging applications;

    selecting the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message; and

    transmitting the message to the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

56. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 55, further comprising the instruction of:

    translating the base code calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

57. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the first receiving step comprises:

    receiving, via an Application Programming Interface, a message from one of a plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the Application Programming Interface interfaces with the plurality of mutually registered client messaging applications and registers with at least one of the plurality of client messaging applications.

58. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 55, wherein the translation is performed by an Application Programming Interface.

59. (previously presented The computer readable medium of claim 58, further comprising a step before the second transmitting step of:

translating, by the Application Programming Interface, the base code calling convention of the return message to the calling convention of the client messaging application determined to be the destination of the message.

60. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the client messaging application comprises an instant messaging application for sending and receiving instant messages.

61 (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 60, wherein the instant messaging application comprises any one of:

Lotus Sametime Messaging;
America Online Instant Messenger;
MSN Messenger Service;
Yahoo Messenger;
ICQ;
Jabber Instant Messaging; and
a Telnet utility.

62. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 52, wherein the autonomous computer program comprises a messaging server.

63. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 62, wherein the messaging server comprises any one of:

an IBM MQSeries server;

a Microsoft Transaction server;

a Lotus Domino server; and

an LDAP utility.

64. (previously presented): The computer readable medium of claim 55, wherein the autonomous computer program retrieves the requested information from any one of:

a personal finance database;

a stock market database;

a personal contact database;

a web site;

an FTP site; and

a gopher site.

65. (currently amended): A computer readable medium including computer instructions for transmitting messages from a client messaging application to a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for other programs, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving a message from a client messaging application, wherein the message includes a request for information;

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request for information, a destination of the message, wherein the destination is one of the plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for other programs a client-user for accessing an informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information;

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the selected autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention.

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66. (currently amended): A computer readable medium including computer instructions for transmitting messages from a plurality of client messaging applications to a plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for other programs, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving a message from at least one of a plurality of client messaging applications, wherein the message includes a request for information;

translating a calling convention of the message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request for information, a destination of the message, wherein the destination is one of the plurality of autonomous computer programs that act as an agent for other programs a client-user for accessing an informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information;

translating, in response to the selecting, the message in the calling convention of the base code to a calling convention of the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the message to the selected autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message without user intervention.

67. (currently amended): A method for providing access to an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for another program via an instant messaging application, comprising the steps of:

receiving from at least one instant messaging application an instant message including a request for information;

translating a calling convention of the instant message to a calling convention of a base code;

determining, based on the request for information, a destination of the instant message, wherein the destination is an autonomous computer program that acts as an agent for ~~another program~~ a client-user for accessing an informational database;

selecting the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the message for accessing the informational database to retrieve the information associated with the request for information;

translating, in response to the selecting, the base code calling convention of the request for information in the instant message into a calling convention compatible with the autonomous computer program determined to be the destination of the instant message; and

transmitting, in response to the translating, the translated request for information to the autonomous computer program, wherein the autonomous computer program processes the translated request for information, without user intervention.

68. (cancelled)

69. (cancelled)

70. (currently amended): The method of claim 67, further comprising the steps of:

receiving information from the autonomous computer program;

generating an instant message including the received information; and

sending the generated instant message to the instant messaging application.